

23 March 87

TALKING POINTS FOR ADDI

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leonean authorities on Monday foiled an assassination plot on President Momoh by former police superintendent Mohammed Gabriel Kai Kai. According to unconfirmed press reports, he and several supporters were killed in a three-hour gun battle with police. The US Embassy in Freetown reports the capital is calm, and according to press, police and Army units are patrolling the streets.

- This was apparently an isolated incident involving a personal grievance. We have no evidence of an organized coup plot. Kai Kai previously had served as police superintendent and head of the anti-smuggling unit, but was demoted by Momoh.
- Momoh will remain vulnerable to other plots. Sierra Leone's economic decline, corruption, hyper-inflation, and a serious fuel shortage may spur coup attempts by junior officers and the enlisted ranks.

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